



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**In re application of:** Mahalingam *et al.*

**Serial No.:** 09/485,421

**Group Art Unit:** 1632

**Filed:** October 5, 2000

**Examiner:** Qian J. Li

**Title:** **FUNCTIONAL FRAGMENTS OF HIV-1 VPR PROTEIN AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME**

**Express Mail Number:** EV 147617028 US

**Deposited:** January 29, 2003

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents**  
**Washington, D.C. 20231**

**Dear Sir:**

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is filed in response to the Advisory Action mailed July 24, 2002 and is being filed along with the request for continued examination (RCE) filed herewith in connection with the above-identified patent application. Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows.

**In the Claims:**

1. (Amended Thrice) A conjugated composition comprising a nuclear localization sequence fragment of HIV-1 Vpr comprising amino acid sequence 17-36 and/or amino acid sequence 59-84 conjugated to a therapeutic compound.
7. (Amended twice) A method of delivering a compound to the nucleus of a cell comprising the step of:

contacting said cell with a conjugated compound that is either said compound conjugated to a nuclear localization sequence fragment of HIV-1 Vpr protein comprising